

* * * can't afford (insurance). Now we are told by TexCare Partnership we will have insurance for our children with low premiums and low co-payments that we can afford. My children have health care when they need it."

CHIP was first implemented in 1998 to address a national crisis—almost 12 million children that were without insurance. In Texas, we are now able to offer insurance to approximately 1.8 million children that otherwise would have none.

While we can make this offer, it is up to each parent or guardian to enroll, or at least inquire about getting, their children in this program. Believe it or not, the hardest part of the CHIP program is getting parents to enroll their children. More parents need to take advantage of this genuinely great program. I want to stress that even if a parent has never qualified for health insurance for their child before, now they can.

CHIP solves the cost problem for many Texas families. In CHIP, many families will only pay an annual fee of \$15 to cover all their children in the plan. Some higher-income families will pay monthly premiums of \$15 or 418, which covers all children in the family. Most families will also have co-payments for doctor/dental visits, prescription drugs, and emergency care. And families must re-enroll their children once a year. Children can only get this insurance if their parents apply, and I hope all parents will take the initiative and make certain your children are enrolled.

The application process is simple and straight-forward—any Texan can call 1-800-647-6558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. If parents want local assistance or information in my congressional district, they can call the organization "ADVANCE" at 956-618-1642, or visit any public library in Hidalgo County to pick up a bilingual brochure and application.

COLORADO STATE
REPRESENTATIVE STEVE TOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Steve Tool. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Tool's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, Steve served on the Finance, Judiciary, and the Health Environment and Welfare and Institutions Committees. He has sponsored legislation regarding the penalty one might receive for child abuse resulting in death. Steve has also worked very aggressively in regards to school finance and trying to balance school finance in the State of Colorado so that there is equal distribution of funds to all communities.

The number of honors and distinctions that Representative Tool earned during her years

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

of outstanding service are too numerous to list, too few to do justice to his contributions to the State of Colorado.

2000 marked the end of Representative Tool's tenure in elected office. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Tool a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

IN HONOR OF ESTHER KIM AND
KAY POE ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 2000 U.S. OLYMPIC
TAEKWONDO TRIALS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Esther Kim and Kay Poe of the US Taekwondo team, who recently participated in the U.S. Olympic Taekwondo Trials in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Ms. Kim and Ms. Poe deserve this body's special recognition for their outstanding display of courage and sportsmanship.

Ms. Poe was set to fight her best friend Esther Kim, whom she has known for thirteen years, in the final match of the tournament, when Ms. Kim then made a most monumental decision, which will undoubtedly affect the lives of both taekwondo stars forever. Knowing that Ms. Poe was injured and unable to fight competitively, Ms. Kim forfeited the women's flyweight championship match and title in honor of her best friend.

Ms. Kim's "bow down" ended her chances of competing for the U.S. in Sidney this September at the Olympic Games. Mr. Speaker, this action clearly demonstrates Ms. Kim's courage and conviction, as well as her indescribable admiration and love for a friend.

Ms. Kim believed that Ms. Poe had worked harder at the sport and deserved the opportunity to represent her country. Poe was seeded number one in the world, while Ms. Kim was ranked tenth.

Rather than dishonoring her best friend by defeating an injured opponent, Ms. Kim chose to respect not only Ms. Poe's ability in the sport, but her determination in defeating her semi-final opponent after suffering an injury.

The Olympic Games are a pillar for international unity, as a plethora of athletic ambassadors compete for a chance to bring back a medal of outstanding athletic achievement for their respective nations. The U.S. teams' goals are very similar, in that our athletes make great sacrifices, with the hope that their efforts will be rewarded with a medal that can be brought back to our grateful nation.

Ms. Kim's father, Mr. Jin, who trained both Ms. Poe and Ms. Kim was honored by his daughter's decision. He believed that both athletes emerged victorious, as they worked together in honoring the team's final Olympic berth.

I salute Ms. Poe and Ms. Kim for their dedication and sacrifice and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending both Esther Kim and Kay Poe for their efforts at the U.S. Olym-

pic Taekwondo Trials in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

HONORING JOHN CIFICHIELLO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Cifichiello from the Bronx. This Thursday, Mr. Cifichiello will be honored by Community Board #11 in the Bronx for his lifetime of service to God, country, and family.

Mr. Cifichiello is a lifelong resident of New York City. He was born on August 24th, 1906 to Italian immigrants Vito and Rosa in their Greenwich Village apartment.

At a young age, his family moved to the Fordham section of the Bronx. Vito and Rosa, along with their daughter Josephine, sons John, Neal, and Fred worked hard and eventually bought their own home on Crotona Avenue. John worked in the printing trade and married Caroline Ciani of Pelham Parkway.

During World War II, he served in the Navy in Ireland and England and upon his discharge began a career in the Postal Service while helping to raise a son John, and a daughter, Carolyn.

Since the end of the war, Mr. Cifichiello has been a community and church activist. He is a past Commander of the Catholic War Veterans and, he has escorted veterans to mass each Sunday at the Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital. He has also been active in Mount Carmel's Holy Name Society and St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Mr. Cifichiello continues to serve as a member of Community Board #11 and is a past president of St. Lucy's Senior Citizens Association. He was a long term member of the Red Cross, participating in numerous blood drives for St. Lucy's and is also a past member of the Catholic Guild for the Blind. He served with the Pelham Parkway Little League for over twenty years, first as a coach and then as president.

Upon retiring from the Post Office in 1975, he began as a volunteer at the New York Botanical Gardens where he continues to serve. He continues to march in the Bronx annual Columbus Day Parade.

Mr. Cifichiello is also the proud grandfather of Peter, Matthew, Michael, John Melissa, and Carolyn.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this volunteer and family man for his many years of service to his church, family, and his nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, May 22, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 211, 212, and 213. Had I been present, I would have voted